

REMARKS

The claims before the Examiner are claims 5 to 11 and 22 to 40 as explained below.

The withdrawal of claims 12 to 21 as drawn to a non-elected invention, the finality of the restriction requirement, and the allowance of claims 10 and 11 is noted. The claims have been amended in a sincere attempt to place the case in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1 to 4 have been canceled and claims 5 to 9 have been modified to depend from allowed claim 10. A new set of claims (22 to 26) correspond to claims 5 to 9 but depend from allowed claim 11. New claims 27 to 40 have been added also which are directed to other embodiments of the invention but fall within the nature and scope of the allowed method claims. The Examiner is directed to the specification at least at the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, page 7, lines 23 to 37, and page 17, lines 23 to 26, and the drawings for support of the newly claimed embodiments.

The withdrawn claims have been canceled to advance prosecution. Applicants will reply upon the protections

Serial No. 09/936,512

afforded by 35 USC 121 for any divisional application filed directed to that subject matter.

The art rejections of claims 1 to 9 are believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 to 4 and the change of dependencies of claims 5 to 9 to depend from allowed claims.

The Examiner is asked to acknowledge that a copy of the certified copy of each of the priority documents has been received from the International Bureau.

The Examiner is thanked for listing references cited with an Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the case is in immediate condition for allowance.

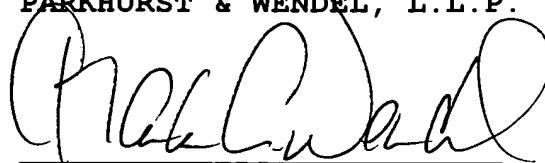
Serial No. 09/936,512

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required prior to formal allowance.

March 1, 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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